(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the national sample surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Recently, Planning Commission has released State-wise estimates of urban poor for the year 2004-2005 on the basis of 61st Round of NSSO survey. At present, there is no proposal to conduct all India survey of the urban poor.

Human Rigths of PIOs

1094. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussions have recently taken place for the protection of the human rights of the people of Indian origin;

(b) whether international treaties are obstacles in this regard;

(c) whether discussions have been held to bring this matter under the purview of Human Rights Commission of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) India is a party of the core international conventions on human rights namely- International Conenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1966; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women, 1979; Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, 2000. These conventions/treaties facilitate the protection of Human rights of Indian, that includes PIOs and are in no way an obstacle/impediment.

Ill-Treatment of women Employees in Gulf countries

1095. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are complaints of ill-treatment of women employees and refusal of timely payment of wages, cancellation of work permit/visa to Indian citizens working in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints, category-wise as on today;

(c) whether the agencies associated with recruitment to Gulf countries have to register themselves;

(d) if so, the details of the agencies registered and recruitment done by these agencies during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise, gender-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the details of action taken to protect rights to employees especially women employees working in Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints are received in the Ministry and the Indian Missions in the Gulf from time to time regarding ill-treatment, payment of less salary, and exploitation in other forms etc. of Indian workers including women workers in Gulf countries.

(b) The complaints received during 2007 from workers in the Gulf including women workers is given in Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The number of recruiting agents registered under the Emigration Act, 1983 and having valid registration certificates as on 31.10.2007 is at Statement-II (*See* below) The year-wise and state-wise outflow of workers in 2004, 2005 and 2006 is at Statement-III. (*See* below) The category-wise and gender-wise outflow of workers in 2004, 2005 and 2006 is at Statement-IV.

(e) For protection and welfare of emigrants, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has signed MoUs with United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait. An Additional Protocol with Qatar to update the 1985 Agreement has also been signed. MoUs with Malaysia and Oman have been finalised.

For protection and welfare of women workers, instructions have been issued to the effect that women below the age of 30 (thirty) years would not be granted emigration clearance if they are seeking employment as housemaids/domestic workers in any foreign country. It has been made mandatory that the work contracts of women household service workers duly attested by the Indian Missions before they are given emigration clearance. Instructions have also been issued to Heads of Indian Missions in the Gulf countries for providing a 24/7 helpline service for women emigrants, organising quarterly open house meetings for the benefit of Household Service Workers (HSWs) for hearing their problems and providing them counselling services. The Indian Missions in the Gulf have also been asked to notify a minimum wage for women household service workers.

Statement-I

Details of Complaints received from workers in the Gulf during 2007

(A) Complaints received in the ministry from Indian missions/Workers from Gulf countries

Nature of complaints	Number of Complaints in 2007
Cheating/Forgery	16
	(woman related-1)
(illegal recruitment/sending for work on visit visa/forged/fake documents/overcharging)	
Job related	5
(non providing of job/change of nature of job/change of destination)	(woman related-2)
Salary related	8
(non payment of salary/less salary)	
Ill-treatment	13
(ill treatment/harassment/residence visa problem/repatriation)	
	42

(B) Complaints relating to female workers received by Indian missions in the Gulf

Name of Indian Mission	Year (2007)
UAE	514
Bahrain	143
Saudi Arabia	128
Qatar	206
Kuwait	764
Oman	110

Statement-II

Number of Registered Recruiting Agents under the Emigration Act, 1983 As on 31-10-2007, State-wise

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number fo registeted recruiting agents
1.	Andhra Pradesh	82
2.	Chandigarh	46
3.	Delhi	322
4.	Goa	22
5.	Gujarat	19
6.	Haryana	12
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
9.	Karnataka	33
10.	Kerala	231
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2
12.	Maharashtra	693
13.	Mizoram	2
14.	Orissa	1
15.	Puducherry	1
16.	Punjab	92
17.	Rajasthan	43
18.	Tamil Nadu	223
19.	Uttar Pradesh	12
20.	Uttaranchal	1
21.	West Bengal	10
	TOTAL:	1851

Statement-III

Outflow of Workers State-wise during the years 2004—2006

S. No.	State	2004	2005	2006
1.	Kerala	[illegible]	1,25,075	1,20,083
2.	Tamil Nadu	[illegible]	1,17,050	1,55,631
3.	Karnataka	[illegible]	75,384	24,362
4.	Gujarat	22,218	49,923	13,274
5.	Andhra Pradesh	72,580	48,498	97,680

S. No.	State	2004	2005	2006
6.	Maharashtra	28,670	29,289	15,356
7.	Punjab	25,302	24,088	39,311
8.	Uttar Pradesh	27,428	22,558	66,131
9.	Rajasthan	35,108	21,899	50,236
10.	Bihar	21,812	9,366	36,493
11.	Delhi	6,052	6,024	9098
12.	Madhya Pradesh	8,888	5,312	7047
13.	West Bengal	8,986	5,102	14,929
14.	Haryana	1,267	2,313	193
15.	Goa	7,053	1,627	4,063
16.	Orissa	6,999	1,258	4,114
17.	Jharkhand	919	974	1,427
18.	Chandigarh	2,405	807	6,616
19.	Himachal Pradesh	1,506	762	1,180
20.	Assam	2,695	669	1,075
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,944	486	1.661
22.	Puducherry	560	222	2
23.	Uttaranchal	58	137	93
24.	Andaman & Nicobar	29	5	190
25.	Tripura	2	1	1
26.	Chhattisgarh	580	0	4735
27.	Arunachal Pradesh	73	0	0
28.	Nagaland	46	0	0
29.	Mizoram	38	0	0
30.	Manipur	29	0	0
31.	Sikkim	0	0	10
32.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
33.	DNH/UT	0	0	11
34.	Port Blair	0	0	1
35.	Others	0	24	1909
	TOTAL	4,74,960	5,48,853	6,76,912

Statement-IV

Outflow of workers-Skilled/Unskilled and Male/Female in 2004, 2005 and 2006

Year	Skilled	Unskilled	Total	Male	Female
2004	4,63,502	11,458	4,74,960	4,71,066	3894
2005	5,28,122	20,731	5,48,853	5,34,523	14,330
2006	6,51,893	25,019	6,76,912	6,64,256	12,656

Rights of immigrant workers

1096. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any international covenant or International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines protecting the rights of immigrant workers against exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has ascertained the facts regarding the protest by Indian workers in Dubai against their working conditions; and

(d) whether our Mission in UAE has ascertained the working conditions of Indian workers and has taken up the issue with local Government?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The International Labour Organisation in its 60th session in 1975 adopted the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975, concerning migrations in abusive conditions and promoting equality of opportunity and treatment of migrants. Other relevant ILO conventions and recommendations on the subject are Migration for Employment Convention and Recommendation (Revised) 1949; Protection of Migrant Workers (Underdeveloped countries) Recommendation, 1955; Employment Policy Convention and Recommendation, 1964; Employment Service Convention and Recommendation, 1948; Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Convention (Revised), 1949 and the Migrant Workers Recommendation, 1975. These deal with matters such as regulation of the recruitment of migrant workers, introduction and placing of the migrant workers, provision of accurate information relating to migration, minimum conditions to be enjoyed by migrants in transit and on arrival, adoption of an active employment policy and international collaboration in these matters.

The conventions were to be binding only upon those Members States whose ratifications have been registered with the ILO. However, the Government of India have not ratified these conventions.

(c) Yes, Sir, there were recently two instances in Dubai, where workers, with majority of them being Indians, went on strike against their employers in demand of increase in their wages etc. In one case relating to M/s. Pauling Middle East Company, almost all the workers have rejoined work on assurance by the employer of not penalizing them in any manner. The workers guilty of violence (including Indians) have already been deported to their countries.